

COLUMBIA -- (Special) -- Strom Thurmond, write-in candidate for the United States Senate in opposition to the choice of the State Democratic Executive Committee, State Senator Edgar A. Brown of Barnwell, completed his first full week of campaigning by promising that if he is elected he will resign in two years in order to assure the people of a primary in 1956.

The former governor, a strong and tireless campaigner, swung into action the weekend before, issuing an announcement of his candidacy, and then began his first week by opening campaign headquarters in Columbia and Charleston.

"I had hoped, and I still hope, for a Democratic primary," Mr. Thurmond said in his opening announcement. With the election only six weeks off, however, he immediately began his campaign in opposition to the action of the Committee in attempting to choose a Senator to succeed the late Senator Burnett R. Maybank of Charleston.

Whether the Executive Committee can get by with nominating a Senator (by a majority of 31-18) without calling a special primary will be the big issue in the November election, Mr. Thurmond emphasized. A report from Washington that the Democratic National Committee would throw its weight behind Brown brought a sharp retort from the write-in candidate:

"The National Democratic party has never been able to dictate to the people of South Carolina as to how they should vote, and I'm sure it cannot do so today."

On Tuesday, Candidate Thurmond made a 100-mile trip to Gaffney, where he addressed a large group celebrating that town's Sesquicentennial

Anniversary, in a non-political speech on the vital need for national defense. To the reporters who gathered to question him regarding his plans, however, he offered a statement on the seething excitement which had permeated the state since the Committee's nominating action.

"The people of South Carolina are justifiably angered and alarmed over the fact that thirty-one men have arrogated unto themselves the precious right of naming the United States Senator," said Candidate Thurmond.

"They will not take it lying down."

"I have said I favored a primary, and I still favor it. A primary could still be held if those who have denied it would follow the course open to them under the law."

He went on to add that, "as far as I am concerned, this campaign is one of principle and not of personalities. The principle involved is the greatest heritage we have as citizens in a democracy--the privilege of electing those whom we choose to represent us in governmental affairs."

On Wednesday morning, Governor James F. Byrnes announced the interim appointment of Charles R. Daniel, prominent Greenville contractor, to fill the vacant Senate seat until January of 1955, after which time the newly-elected Senator will be seated. With his announcement, Governor Byrnes reiterated his original stand -- that a primary election could and should be held before November.

From his Columbia headquarters, Mr. Thurmond endorsed the Governor's sentiments:

"I heartily concur that a primary should be held. It has been my position from the beginning that there is time for a primary, and that the Democratic voters of South Carolina should not be denied the

right to name their Senator in a party primary."

On Thursday, Thurmond opened his Charleston headquarters with a lengthy tribute to the late Senator Maybank, and commented that he "would not let my name be mentioned as a possible candidate until we had full opportunity to pay him the final tribute"

Thurmond said that "I fully and humbly realize that I am asking for a post which has been occupied for 14 years by one of the greatest Senators South Carolina has ever had, Burnett Rhett Maybank --- --- He was not merely a great South Carolinian, but a great American."

Following several trips on Friday and Saturday in the vicinity of Columbia, Mr. Thurmond returned to his Columbia headquarters on Saturday afternoon to issue the biggest news story of the week, politically speaking.

In token of the sincerity of his belief that the voters, and not the Committee, had the right to choose a Senator, he said he would "pledge to the people of South Carolina that if I am elected in the General Election on November 2, I will tender my resignation in 1956 in sufficient time to let the Democrats of South Carolina nominate a United States Senator in the regular Democratic primary election that year, which is the earliest regular primary to be held. In this way, the right of the people to nominate their Senator, which they were denied by the committee action, will be restored to them at the earliest possible time."